



Welcome to the public meeting for the

Fort Totten-North Michigan Park Pedestrian Access Improvements Environmental Assessment

Agenda

6:30 – 6:45 pm Registration and Open House

6:45 – 7:15 pm Presentation

Project Background

Purpose and Need

NEPA Process

Section 106 Process

Alternatives

Opportunities to Comment

7:15 – 8:00 pm Open House



Project Background



- Only official public pathways to the Fort Totten Metrorail Station exist around the perimeter of the project area.
- Pedestrians have created an unofficial, or social, trail by cutting through the vegetated project area.
- Pedestrian activity after dark on the previously unlit unofficial trail has resulted in increased crime opportunities.
- Damage to park resources is also occurring.
- National Park Service and WMATA have added temporary lighting to deter crime.
- National Park Service begins Environmental Assessment for the project in November 2013.



Project Area



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ROCK CREEK PARK
CIVIL WAR DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON



Purpose for Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to *protect park resources* and *improve pedestrian access* to the Fort Totten Metrorail Station and associated bus facilities from the North Michigan Park neighborhood in Northeast Washington, DC.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ROCK CREEK PARK
CIVIL WAR DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON



Need for Action

Action is needed to reduce resource damage caused by the use of unofficial trails.

This damage includes:

- Cutting branches and removing vegetation to widen unofficial trails
- Placing various materials to create walkable trails in muddy areas
- Accumulation of trash and debris on and near the unofficial trails

The action is also needed to address visitor safety concerns that have arisen from the use of these unofficial trails.



Laws and Procedures



NEPA

National
Environmental
Policy Act

NHPA

National Historic
Preservation Act
Section 106

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ROCK CREEK PARK
CIVIL WAR DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON



NEPA Process

POLICY

NEPA

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 ET SEQ.)

CEQ

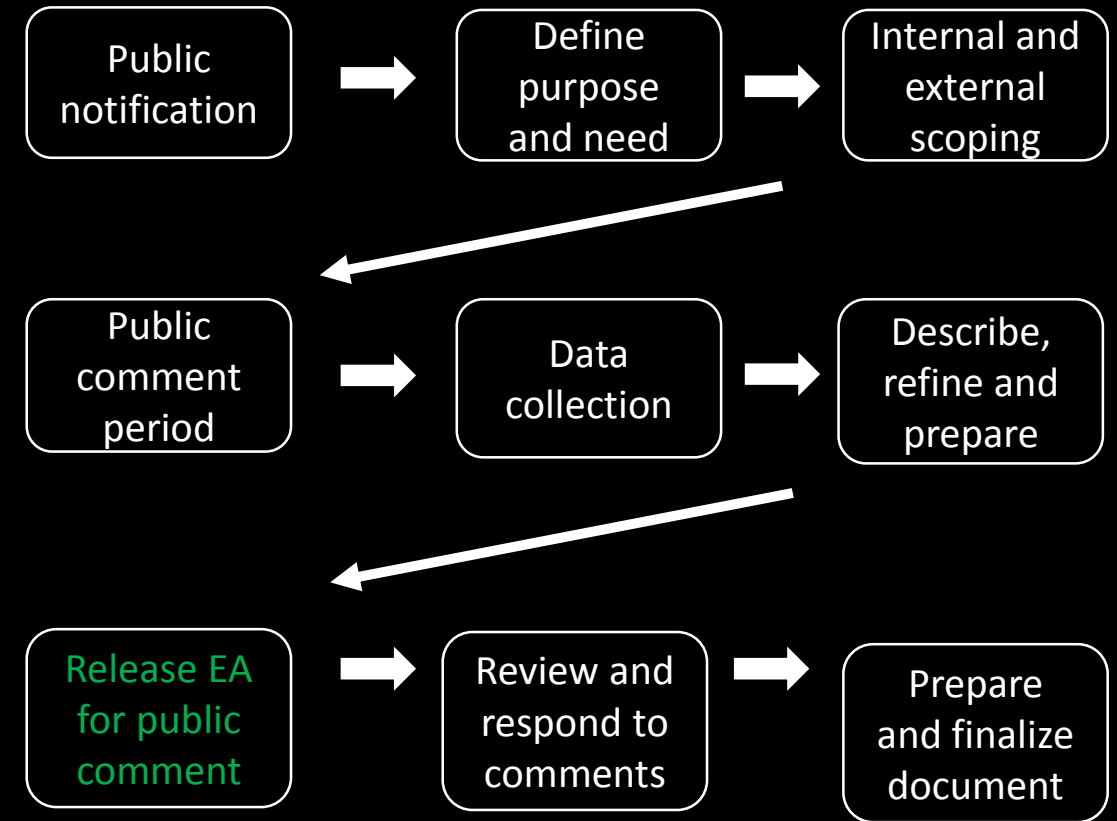
Council on Environmental Quality

"Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA" (40 CFR 1500-1508).

DO-12

Department of the Interior, Director's Order 12

Director's Order #12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making



NHPA Process

POLICY

NHPA

National Historic Preservation Act

**Section 106 Regulations,
36CFR Part 800**

PROCESS

1. Define undertaking / initiate Section 106
2. Involve the public
3. Identify consulting parties
4. Define area of potential effect (APE)
5. Identify significant cultural resources in APE
6. Assess effects on significant resources
7. Apply criteria of adverse effect
- 8. Continue consultation** ←
9. Draft agreement document, if needed



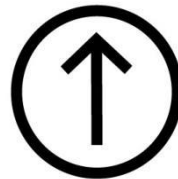
Alternative 1: No Action



LEGEND

-  Project Area
-  No Action/Existing Social Trails

NORTH





Under this alternative, current management would continue. Activities would include occasional mowing of the unofficial trails and removing dumped items from the interior of the park. There would be no maintenance of the unofficial trail between Galloway Street NE and the intersection of Gallatin Street NE and 6th Place NE. The portable lighting towers currently in place would not remain over the long term.



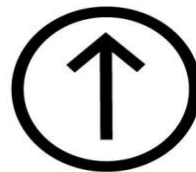
Alternative 2: Improve Street-side Pedestrian Facilities Access



LEGEND

-  Project Area
-  Alternative 2: Improve Street-side Pedestrian Facilities Access (Fence)

NORTH



Under Alternative 2, a fence would be placed around the entire project area to protect park resources, and unofficial trails would be revegetated. The fence would follow the project area and stop at the existing fence around the stormwater management facility west of the project area. This alternative could also include installing a sidewalk along the north side of Gallatin Street NE. Alternative 2 could also include the installation of lighting along sidewalks at the perimeter of the project area. In addition, as part of a separate project, the District Department of Transportation is planning to install a sidewalk/multi-purpose trail on the south side of Galloway Street NE.





Alternative 3: Direct Trail (Preferred Alternative)

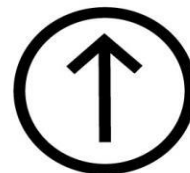


Under Alternative 3, a paved multi-use trail that connects Gallatin and Galloway Streets NE would be constructed through the project area. The trail alignment would allow for an unobstructed line-of-sight and the most gradual grade possible from the beginning to the end of the trail to ensure universal accessibility. This alternative may include formalizing one of the short existing unofficial trails. In addition, existing unofficial trails would be closed and restored with National Park Service-approved native vegetation. The National Park Service would also manage and reduce the amount of non-native invasive vegetation in the understory of the project area and increase visibility. Under this alternative, there would be an option to light the trail.

LEGEND

-  Project Area
-  Alternative 3: Direct Trail (Preferred Alternative) - area where trail could be placed

NORTH





Alternative 4: Construct a Trail System

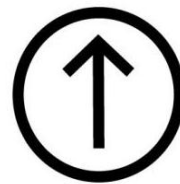


Under this alternative, the National Park Service would construct a trail system consisting of a main, paved trail as described in alternative 3, as well as additional trails surfaced with pervious materials such as wood chips. This alternative would consider existing and potential trail alignments compatible with the topography and existing stormwater management structures, that do not interfere with Metrorail access facilities on the west side of the project area, and allow for sufficient sight lines. It would include the option for installing various amenities, as described in alternative 3, and picnic tables. It would also include the option to clear invasive, non-native vegetation from the project site, resulting in an appearance similar to the grassed and forested areas of the CWDW land east of South Dakota Avenue NE.

LEGEND

-  Project Area
-  Alternative 4: Construct a Trail System
- area where trail could be placed

NORTH



Opportunities to Comment

Your comments are essential to this process.

**Please submit comments by February 19, 2015 at:
www.parkplanning.nps.gov/rocr or mail to:**

Rock Creek Park

**Attn: Fort Totten-North Michigan Park Pedestrian Access Improvements EA
3545 Williamsburg Lane NW
Washington, DC 20008**

